

such a distance there is really very little that I can do.

I have cabled the Italian Government asking if any

, purpose can be achieved by at once sending

\ the American battleships now in Suez to the
stricken any or all of region.

By the way, I am sure you would be delighted
if you

could see the accounts that have come from our
battle fleet,

which is now returning from its trip around
the world. In

gunnery and in battle tactics no less than in
the ordinary

voyage maneuvers, there has been a steady
gain; and the

fleet is far more efficient, collectively and
individually, now

than when it left these waters over a year ago.

¹ The Chinese envoy here is completely upset
by the very

unexpected news of what has just happened
in China, and

I think intends immediately to return. The
Chinese are so

helpless to carry out any fixed policy, whether
home or for-

foreign, that it is difficult to have any but the
most cautious

dealings with them.

With assurances of my hearty esteem and
admiration,

and of the eager pleasure with which I look
forward to see-

ing you in person a year from this spring,
believe me,

Very faithfully yours,

THEODOEE ROOSEVELT.

To His Imperial Majesty

William II,

Emperor of Germany.

The only personal correspondence that
passed between

the Czar of Bussia and the President took
place during the

Portsmouth Peace Conference, as follows:

(Original in the Czar's handwriting)

PETERHOF,

July 18, 1905.

Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

I take the opportunity of Mr. Witte's
departure for
Washington to express to you my feelings of
sincere friend-
ship.

Thanks to your initiative the Eussian and Japanese dele-